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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CURACAO PRIORITY

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INFO COAST GUARD WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

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AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

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AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL MERIDA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON

DATE/CASE ID: 21 JUL 2008 200503656

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AMCONSUL MONTERREY
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO
NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN/PAO
AMEMBASSY ROME
CDR 193RD INFBDE (PAN) FT CLAYTON PN AFZU-PO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN/PAO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL TIJUANA
XMT AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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ALL POSTS PLEASE PASS PAO: ROME FOR THE VATICAN

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1992

1. PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCES:

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VENEZUELA: ATTEMPTED COUP

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA?

A. ALL REBEL SOLDIERS HAVE SURRENDERED AND ARE IN CUSTODY; ALL RESISTANCE HAS ENDED. CARACAS WAS CALM THIS MORNING; TRAFFIC WAS NORMAL AND STORES WERE OPEN.

PRESIDENT BUSH AGAIN TELEPHONED VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO REITERATE HIS SUPPORT.

VENEZUELAN MEDIA REPORT 50 TO 70 DEATHS AS A RESULT OF THE ATTEMPTED COUP. AT LEAST FOUR UNITS FROM THE VENEZUELAN ARMY WERE INVOLVED. THE COUP LEADERS WERE ALL OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL RANK; SENIOR OFFICERS REMAINED LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE REBELS MADE NO CLEAR EXPLANATION OF THE ATTEMPTED COUP.

2. RP PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE OF FEBRUARY 5, 1992:

HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

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Q: COULD YOU GIVE AN UPDATE ON THE REPATRIATION OF THE
HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE?

A: 381 HAITIANS WERE REPATRIATED ON FEBRUARY 3.

A FURTHER 508 (250 ON ONE CUTTER AND 258 ON ANOTHER)
DEPARTED GUANTANAMO YESTERDAY AND WILL BE REPATRIATED TO
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HAITI TOMORROW.

Q: WERE THERE ANY HAITIAN PICKED YESTERDAY?

A: YES. 78 HAITIANS WERE PICKED UP YESTERDAY, ACCORDING
TO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE COAST GUARD.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS PICKED UP SINCE
THE COUP 15,156.

IN THE 4 DAYS SINCE THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON JANUARY
31, ONLY 3 BOATS WITH A TOTAL OF 126 HAITIANS ABOARD HAVE
BEEN INTERDICTED.

Q: COULD YOU PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE EXPECTED PACE OF
THE REPATRIATION? HAS THE PROPOSED PACE BEEN SLOWED DOWN?

A: THE COAST GUARD PLANS TO REPATRIATE HAITIANS AS
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SAFETY AND
HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, AS WELL THE ABSORPTIVE
ABILITY OF THE RECEIVING AGENCIES IN HAITI.

THE HAITIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE
LOGISTICS AND PACE OF THE RETURNS, AND ABOUT THEIR ABILITY
TO RECEIVE TOO MANY PEOPLE AT ONCE.

WE ARE WORKING ON LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
RETURNING HAITIANS WITH HAITIAN AUTHORITIES.

Q: WHEN IS THE REPATRIATION EXERCISE LIKE TO BE COMPLETED?

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A: THIS WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF NEW PICK-UPS AND ON THE COMPLETION OF INS INTERVIEWS OF ALL THOSE PICKED UP. SOME 4,000 HAITIANS AT GUANTANAMO REMAIN TO BE INTERVIEWED.

THE REPATRIATION COULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US A GENERAL UP DATE ON THE DISPOSITION OF ALL THE HAITIANS PICKED UP SINCE THE COUP?

A: I WISH TO STRESS THAT THE STATISTICS WE PROVIDE ARE CONSTANTLY BEING UPDATED AND ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION. WE WILL BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE BUT WILL USE APPROXIMATE FIGURES IN SOME INSTANCES.

78 HAITIANS WERE PICKED UP YESTERDAY, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE COAST GUARD.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE PICKED UP SINCE THE COUP TO 15,156.

1,402 HAITIANS HAVE BEEN FLOWN FROM GUANTANAMO TO THE STATE TO PURSUE THEIR CLAIM TO ASYLUM.

TO DATE, 3,732 HAITIANS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO HAVE A PLAUSIBLE CLAIM TO ASYLUM, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION FROM INS.

919 HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED TO HAITI. THIS INCLUDES THE 381 REPATRIATED ON FEBRUARY 3. THE OTHER 538 WERE REPATRIATED IN NOVEMBER.

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594 HAITIANS HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY TO HAITI: 177 FROM THIRD COUNTRY SAFEHAVENS AND 417 FROM GUANTANAMO.

APPROXIMATELY 10,467 HAITIANS ARE ASHORE AT THE U.S. NAVAL FACILITY AT GUANTANAMO BAY. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED-IN AND WHO ARE AWAITING TRANSPORTATION TO THE U.S.

SOME 1,599 HAITIANS ARE ON BOARD COAST GUARD CUTTERS. THIS INCLUDES THE 508 EN ROUTE TO HAITI.

27 HAITIANS REMAIN IN TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN FACILITIES IN

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VENEZUELA.

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146 REMAIN IN TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN FACILITIES IN HONDURAS.

2 HAVE BEEN MEDICALLY EVACUATED TO THE U.S.

Q: HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER COURT ACTION TO PREVENT REPATRIATION?

A: LAST NIGHT, IN A 60 PAGE OPINION, THE 11TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS RULED IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ORDERED THE DISTRICT COURT TO DISMISS THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.

I REFER YOU TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

3. TAKEN QUESTIONS FROM DEPT. BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 4, 1992:

HAITI: EMBARGO

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Q. HAS THE U.S. URGED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON HAITI? WHAT ABOUT CURACAO, WHERE HAITI MAY HAVE PURCHASED OIL?

A. WE HAVE MADE REPEATED APPROACHES TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES, BUT THEY HAVE NOT UNDERTAKEN TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST HAITI. THIS INCLUDES CURACAO, WHICH IS A DEPENDENCY OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Q. WHAT DOES THE ASSEMBLY SECTOR DO?

A. HAITI'S ASSEMBLY SECTOR IMPORTS MATERIALS FOR ASSEMBLY AND RE-EXPORT. SOME OF THE PRODUCTS IT MAKES ARE CLOTHING, ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, SPORTING GOODS AND TOYS.

Q. WHEN WILL THE EMBARGO RETARGETING GO INTO EFFECT?

A. THE DECISION ON THE ASSEMBLY SECTOR IS EFFECTIVE TODAY. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL.

HAITI: U.S. FREEZING OF HAITIAN ASSETS

Q: WHAT IS THE LEGAL BASIS FOR RETARGETING OR FINE TUNING

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THE FREEZING OF HAITIAN ASSETS IN THE U.S.?

A: THE SECRETARY OF TREASURY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE FREEZING OF HAITIAN ASSETS PURSUANT TO SECTION FIVE OR EXECUTIVE ORDERS 12775 AND
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12779, ISSUED ON OCTOBER 4, 1991 AND OCTOBER 28, 1991,
RESPECTIVELY.

PRESS AVAILABILITY FOR AMB. ADAMS

Q: WILL AMB. ADAMS BE AVAILABLE TO THE MEDIA?

A: AMB. ADAMS IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR BRIEFINGS OR INTERVIEWS WITH THE MEDIA AT THIS TIME.

VENEZUELA: ATTEMPTED COUP

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA?

A. THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN VENEZUELA HAS FAILED. JUST BEFORE NOON, A CAPTURED COUP LEADER, COMMANDER HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS, CALLED ON THE REBELS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS. REBELS IN CARACAS AND MARACAIBO HAVE SURRENDERED. ISOLATED POCKETS OF REBELS REMAIN IN VALENCIA, SOUTHWEST OF CARACAS.

VENEZUELAN MEDIA REPORTED 54 CASUALTIES (DEAD AND WOUNDED) SO FAR IN THE ATTEMPTED COUP.

THERE ARE SOME REPORTS OF SCATTERED LOOTING IN ONE SUBURB OF CARACAS. THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN CARACAS AND MARACAIBO HAVE BEEN OPENED.

THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET LATER TODAY TO RATIFY THE TEN-DAY SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES COVERING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, ASSEMBLY, PROTEST
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AND STRIKING.

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PORT -AU-PRINCE - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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